

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-06 SS-15 L-02 SP-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9557

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2247

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IT

SUBJECT: MILITARY UTILITY AND POLICY VALUE OF MASTER DATA
EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS

REF: STATE 12376

1. EMBASSY ROME IS SATISFIED WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH THE DATA
EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS ARE HANDLED. THE AGREEMENTS HAVE IN NO
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WAY ADVERSELY AFFECTED OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE ITAL-

IAN, AND IN FACT, PROMOTE RELATIONS BETWEEN FIRMS AND SCIENTISTS WHICH WE PRESUME ARE OF INTRINSIC AND PRACTICAL VALUE. WE ARE NOT COMPETENT TO EVALUATE THE RETURN TO THE USG FROM THE AGREEMENTS. CLEARLY, HOWEVER, THE ITALIANS RECEIVE A SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER RETURN IN ABSOLUTE TERMS THOUGH IN TERMS OF THE SIZE OF R&D BUDGETS, THE ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION IS PROBABLY PROPORTIONATE.

2. THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM IS LARGELY OWING TO THE WIDE RANGE OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CHANNELS FOR MILITARY, POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL INTERCHANGE DEVELOPED DURING THE POST WAR PERIOD BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ITALY. A KEY ELEMENT HAS BEEN THE NATO CONNECTION WHICH HAS ALLOWED BOTH SIDES TO RELY ON GREATER ASSURANCES OF CONFIDENTIALITY THAN MIGHT OTHERWISE BE EXPECTED AND WHICH IDENTIFIES THE COMMON INTEREST TO BE SERVED. THE NATO GOALS OF STANDARDIZATION AND RATIONALIZATION MUST SEEM MORE BELIEVABLE IN ITALY BECAUSE OF THE EXAMPLE PRESENTED BY THE MDEA PROGRAMS.

3. THERE ARE SOME PROGRAMS RELATED TO THE MDEA WHICH COULD DEVELOP INTO COPRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS. IN THESE PROGRAMS (THE PATROL HYDROFOIL MISSILE CRAFT DEVELOPED BY A NATO-SPONSORED GERMAN-ITALIAN-US CONSORTIUM AND THE SIDEWINDER MISSILE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ARE EXAMPLES). THE U.S. COULD PROFIT POLITICALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND MILITARILY SHOULD THE ALLIANCE BE ABLE TO STANDARDIZE PROCUREMENT OF THESE SYSTEMS.

4. THE AMBASSADOR IS AWARE OF THE PROGRAM AND HAS COMPLETE CONFIDENCE THAT THE MAAG CHIEF WILL REPORT TO HIM ANY PROBLEM WHICH MIGHT ARISE FROM THEM. MOREOVER, THE POLITICAL/MILITARY AFFAIRS SECTION MONITORS MILITARY INCOMING TRAFFIC CONCERNING SUCH MATTERS AND HAS A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MAAG WHICH SHOULD HELP PREVENT ANY EXCHANGES FROM DEVELOPING INTO A BILATERAL POLITICAL PROBLEM. FINALLY THE SIZE OF THE MAAG SEEMS ADEQUATE FOR THE BASICALLY ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPERVISORY ROLE THEY PLAY IN THE EXCHANGE PROCESS.

5. THE EMBASSY HAS NO SUGGESTIONS TO OFFER TOWARD IMPROVING THE WORDING OF THE AGREEMENTS. VOLPE

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